United Nations A/ES-10/580–S/2013/84

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 February 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 8 February 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to convey our rising concerns about Israel's illegal policies and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine. The persistence of these destructive, oppressive and unlawful actions by the occupying Power is exacerbating the critical humanitarian situation of the Palestinian civilian population and further poisoning the atmosphere and heightening tensions between the two sides. Moreover, such actions undermine the collective efforts being exerted, regionally and internationally, to overcome the deadlock and to launch a credible political process, at the same time that they threaten the viability of the two-State solution to the conflict.

In the recent period, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued its military raids of Palestinian villages, towns and cities, arresting and detaining dozens more Palestinian civilians, including children, who continue to be terrorized by the Israeli practice of seizing children from their homes in the middle of the night and subjecting them to forced interrogations and detention. Recent arrest raids have included the arrest on Monday, 4 February, of 23 Palestinians, among them three democratically elected officials. This was followed by the arrest of another eight Palestinians two days later. We condemn these Israeli actions, which constitute blatant violations of international law, and call for the cessation of the arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians.

In this connection, we reiterate our grave concern regarding the plight of hunger-striking prisoners, among them Samer Issawi, whose life is in imminent danger, as well as Ayman Sharawna, Tareq Qedan and Jafar Ezzedine, who have been on long-term hunger strikes in protest of their captivity by Israel and whose plight we underscored in our letter of 24 January 2013. We call upon the international community to act, consistent with international law, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its inhumane treatment of Palestinian prisoners and to

13-22949 (E) 130213

Please recycle

release those hunger-striking prisoners and all other Palestinian prisoners being held unlawfully.

Moreover, we stress our concern regarding the deplorable conditions in which Palestinians are being imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power. This includes the systematic physical and psychological maltreatment of prisoners, including such as that which occurred today at Nafha prison, where occupying forces attacked and beat Palestinian prisoners and destroyed their belongings.

Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its illegal settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and its settlers continue their lawlessness and incitement, causing injury to civilians and damage to property. On 31 January, reports revealed that the Israeli Government had advanced plans for the construction of another 346 settlement units in an area south of Occupied East Jerusalem and north of Bethlehem, where Israeli settlement activities have been fervent. Israel also continues its assault on Muslim heritage and holy sites, with reports on 6 February of the demolition of ancient Islamic structures in the plaza of the Western Wall of the Old City near Al-Aqsa Mosque. Such provocations, along with actions such as the forced entry yesterday at Al-Haram Al-Sharif of more than 100 Israeli occupying soldiers and dozens of extremist settlers, threaten to totally destabilize the already fragile situation on the ground and require the urgent attention of the international community.

At this time, we stress the importance of the report recently issued by the Human Rights Council-mandated international fact-finding mission which investigated the implications of Israeli settlements on the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The report reaffirms the illegality of Israel's settlement activities, as previously determined by numerous United Nations resolutions and the July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. It is imperative that serious follow-up be undertaken of the conclusions and recommendations made regarding this illegal practice and the far-reaching negative consequences it is having on the Palestinian human rights situation, on the demographic and geographic situation on the ground and on the prospects for realizing the two-State solution.

In this regard, the occupying Power has also persisted with its demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and confiscation of Palestinian land, forcibly displacing more Palestinian civilians in violation of international humanitarian law. On 5 February, the Israeli occupying forces destroyed a two-storey home in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Beit Hanina, once again under the pretext of the lack of a building permit. The house, constructed six years ago, was home to four Palestinian families, comprising 30 people, including several children and elderly individuals, now rendered homeless by this inhumane, unlawful act of destruction.

This was preceded a day earlier by the demolition of four buildings and a sewage network in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan, which has been heavily targeted by Israel in the furtherance of its colonization schemes, and by the issuance of demolition notices to at least 200 Palestinian families in the Fuheidat neighbourhood east of the village of Anata. Also, the Israeli occupying forces on 6 February demolished a water well in the Al-Fawwar refugee camp south of Al-Khalil and on 7 February demolished a home in the village of Al-Khas, east of Bethlehem, and a municipal building in the village of Beit Awla, west of Al-Khalil.

Palestinian civilians continue to engage in peaceful protest, a right to which they are entitled under international law, against this illegal Israeli colonization of their land and destruction of their property. This includes the establishment of another protest village in Burin, south of Nablus, on 2 February, against Israeli settlement expansion in the area, similar to the Bab Al-Shams and Bab Al-Karamah villages that were established as an expression of non-violent protest against Israeli settlement plans. Disrespecting the right to peaceful protest, Israel persists with excessive force, including live ammunition, against Palestinian demonstrators, and forcibly dismantled the Burin protest village, even allowing settlers at the site to attack the Palestinian demonstrators.

We reiterate our calls on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to give all of these critical matters due attention and to act, including via practical measures, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The situation of Palestinian prisoners is grave, and Israel must be compelled to respect international humanitarian and human rights law as it applies to them. Moreover, Israel must be urgently compelled to halt all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide forthwith with all of its legal obligations, including those under the Fourth Geneva Convention, without exception. Stopping this illegitimate, destructive campaign is imperative for salvaging the two-State solution and fostering the trust and environment necessary for its achievement and the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 452 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 January 2013 (A/ES-10/579-S/2013/52), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/581–S/2013/89

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 12 February 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to once again have to draw your attention to the critical and tense situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine — as a result of Israel's relentless provocations and illegal actions against the Palestinian people. The systematic human rights violations and breaches of humanitarian law, particularly the theft and colonization of the Palestinian land and the displacement of the Palestinian civilian population, which are being perpetrated by the occupying Power, are undermining the fragile situation on the ground and undermining the hopes for renewed peace efforts.

In follow-up to my previous letters, I must once again convey our grave concern regarding the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees being held captive by Israel, the occupying Power, particularly the plight of several prisoners who are on long-term hunger strikes in protest of their unlawful detention. I have raised this serious matter directly in my recent letters dated 24 January 2013 (A/ES-10/579-S/2013/52) and 8 February 2013 (A/ES-10/580-S/2013/84), and President Mahmoud Abbas has emphasized the gravity of this issue in a letter to you dated today, 12 February 2013. We appeal to the United Nations to exert the necessary efforts and to use the good offices of this organization to compel the occupying Power to act humanely towards the hunger striking prisoners and to release them and all other Palestinians being unlawfully and arbitrarily detained.

In this regard, we once again draw the attention of the international community to the critical conditions of the following prisoners, whose lives are in imminent danger owing to the hunger strikes they have undertaken in peaceful, non-violent protest of their captivity and to the callous disregard of the occupying Power of their rights and their lives: Samer Issawi, who has been on hunger strike for 204 days and faces death if there is no intervention to save his life; Ayman Sharawna, who has been on hunger strike for 140 days; Tareq Qedan, who has also been on hunger

Please recycle

strike for 78 days; and Jafar Ezzedine, who has also been on hunger strike for 78 days. We appeal for action to save the lives of these men and to compel Israel to cease its practice of arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Palestinian civilians, including children, and its egregious physical and psychological mistreatment of the thousands of Palestinians in its captivity.

I am also compelled to draw your attention once again to Israel's illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying Power continues its land grab and its efforts to clear the Palestinian land of its indigenous inhabitants as it continues to feverishly pursue this illegal expansionist agenda. On Sunday, 10 February, the Israeli Government granted approval for the construction of 90 more units in the illegal settlement of "Beit El", adjacent to the Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, setting the way for construction to begin as early as tomorrow. It is to be recalled that the plans for these units are part of the "deal" of the Prime Minister of Israel for the evacuation of the "Ulpana" settlement, which was also constructed illegally on confiscated Palestinian land deep in the West Bank. Thus, the Government of Israel continues to demonstrate its total rejection of international law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention, its lack of commitment to the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and, in fact, its intention to destroy that solution.

The recent period has also witnessed aggressive and destructive actions by the occupying Power in the al-Khalil (Hebron) area, both in the city of al-Khalil and the surrounding southern hills. On 9 February, Palestinian activists, supported by several international activists, set up another protest village, "Kanaan Village", in the southern hill area of al-Khalil, near the village of al-Tuwani, in peaceful protest against Israel's illegal plans and ongoing attempts to demolish homes and infrastructure in the area and to forcibly remove the Palestinian inhabitants. In this regard, Israel has declared the area a so-called "closed military zone", and yet is allowing Israeli settlers to remain there, and is pushing forward with plans to destroy eight Palestinian villages to make way for the establishment of an army training ground. Regrettably, the Israeli occupying forces descended with force upon the Kanaan Village demonstrators, beating them, destroying the tents that had been set up in protest and detaining several of the protesters and three journalists.

Also in this regard, on 9 February, the Israeli occupying army forcibly prevented 150 farmers from reaching their land in Susiya in the southern hill area, further imperilling their livelihoods and violating their rights. It is important to recall here that the Palestinian residents of the area are currently, with the support, among others, of Rabbis for Human Rights, petitioning the Israeli court against the demolition of their homes and gaining access to their farmlands, which are near an Israeli settlement that was illegally constructed there on confiscated Palestinian land.

This was followed on Sunday, 10 February, by the vandalization of a Palestinian community centre in the heart of al-Khalil by a group of extremist Israeli settlers. The settlers uprooted trees and caused damage to the centre as part of an ongoing campaign of intimidation and terror being perpetrated daily by the approximately 800 settlers illegally transferred to the city against the more than 180,000 Palestinian civilians there.

Also in the al-Khalil area, the Israeli occupying forces carried out more demolitions on 11 February. Several structures, including a home, shed and water

well, were destroyed in Beit Awwa village, leaving eight members of a Palestinian family homeless. Civilian protests against the demolition were met by force by the occupying army, causing injury to several people. On the same day, the Israeli occupying forces demolished a residential trailer in the town of Idhna, displacing eight members of another Palestinian family, and also razed parts of the surrounding land on which the family raises produce for their livelihood.

All of these Israeli policies and measures constitute grave contraventions of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, with some amounting to war crimes. The international community cannot continue absolving Israel, the occupying Power, of its responsibility for these violations and of its obligations to respect international law. Efforts must be exerted, including by the United Nations Security Council, to bring a halt to these violations, to stem the deterioration of the situation on the ground and to preserve and seize forthwith the dwindling opportunity that remains to achieve the two-State solution for peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 453 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 February 2013 (A/ES-10/580-S/2013/84), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/582–S/2013/109

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 February 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 22 February 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I once again draw the international community's attention to the critical situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees that are being held captive in Israeli jails, stressing in particular our grave concerns about the situation of prisoners who have been on long-term hunger strikes. Their plight, in addition to the other relentless violations being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, is destabilizing the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

We must again convey our alarm about the plight of four Palestinian men who have been on long-term hunger strikes — Samer Issawi, Ayman Sharawna, Tareq Qedan and Jaafar Ezzedine — each of whom is being held by Israel under administrative detention for prolonged periods without charge. The non-violent, peaceful protests by these men continue to be treated with callousness by Israel, the occupying Power, endangering their lives. Just yesterday, an Israeli court declared that Issawi's sentence would conclude on 6 March, yet he must still face a military committee that could arbitrarily imprison him for many more years.

While Issawi remains in a prison clinic, Sharawna, Qedan and Ezzedine have been transferred to hospitals due to their declining health, but none have been charged or released. This crisis has engendered numerous protests by Palestinian civilians, as well as the undertaking of a hunger strike on 19 February by hundreds of other Palestinian prisoners in solidarity, raising tensions and instability. As stated, inter alia, in a message last week from Mr. Issawi to the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, "The battle waged by me and by my heroic colleagues … is everyone's battle, the battle of the Palestinian people against the occupation and its prisons …"

Today, demonstrations in support of the prisoners took place across Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Al-Khalil, particularly at the Al-Arroub and Al-Fawwar refugee camps, with dozens of Palestinians injured by the typical brutality of the Israeli occupying forces using tear gas and rubber bullets.

13-24239 (E) 260213

Please recycle

These protests were preceded by demonstrations on 15 February by hundreds of Palestinians outside the "Ofer" prison near Ramallah, who were subjected to excessive Israeli force, with at least 156 people needing medical treatment for tear gas inhalation; other similar protests near Jenin on the same day; again at "Ofer" on 20 February; and yesterday, 21 February, where hundreds of Palestinians protested near Ramallah with at least 29 people being injured by rubber bullets fired by the occupying forces.

We thus reiterate our appeal for intervention by all concerned members of the international community to save the lives of these men and to compel Israel to end its arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Palestinian civilians, to end its abuse of all those held in its captivity and to release them. Here, we express appreciation for the statement you issued on 19 February about the crisis of the hunger-striking prisoners and their deteriorating health conditions. We underscore the call for a solution without delay in order to resolve their plight and for these prisoners "to be charged and face trial with judicial guarantees in accordance with international standards, or be promptly released" and for respect for the 14 May 2012 agreement in this regard.

Today, I must also draw attention to Israel's destructive settlement practices, which continue to provoke the sensitivities and national sentiments of the Palestinian people. Demolition and eviction orders continue to be issued by Israel in its fervent drive to clear large swaths of Palestinian land of its indigenous inhabitants. On 13 February, another 20 Bedouin families were issued eviction orders, as Israel attempts to seize more Palestinian land in the Jaba' area north-east of Jerusalem to the illegal settlement of "Adam". On 21 February, four Palestinian families in Beit Dajan near Nablus were also issued demolition orders. Also, the Israeli occupying forces destroyed, on 20 February, an electricity grid in the village of Qusra near Nablus, cutting off power in the area and injuring several of the Palestinian residents who protested this senseless destruction. Yesterday, occupying forces also entered the southern Gaza Strip and razed farmland east of Khan Younis.

At the same time, the lawlessness of Israeli settlers continues, terrorizing the Palestinian people and making their daily existence in their own homeland miserable. Some of the many recent incidents include the 13 February razing of Palestinian agricultural land owned by two families in an area east of Bethlehem by Israeli settlers under the protection of Israeli soldiers; an attack by Israeli settlers on a 26-year-old Palestinian who was shepherding his flock of sheep in Al-Khalil on 20 February; and an attack on 21 February by armed settlers on the village of Qusra, where they burned six cars and Israeli soldiers then entered the village and used excessive force against the residents.

The overall situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is rapidly deteriorating as a result of such brutality and gross violations by Israel, the occupying Power, of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. This critical situation warrants the international community's attention and action, including by the Security Council, to preserve calm, to bring an end to these illegal and destructive practices by the Government of Israel and its settlers against the Palestinian people and to preserve the small opportunity remaining for realizing peace and stability in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 454 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 February 2013 (A/ES-10/581-S/2013/89) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/583–S/2013/111

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 25 February 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write in immediate follow-up to our letter of 22 February and preceding letters in which we conveyed our grave concerns regarding the critical situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees held captive in Israeli jails, including those Palestinians enduring long-term hunger strikes in protest at their administrative detention and other violations of their human rights. We have repeatedly drawn the international community's attention to the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including the fact of their constant subjugation to physical and psychological abuse and torture by Israel, the occupying Power. Regrettably, our calls to the international community to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to this serious situation have been to no avail, allowing the occupying Power to persist with its arbitrary imprisonment and inhumane treatment of Palestinian civilians, including children, with total impunity.

In this regard, we regret to inform you of the death of a Palestinian prisoner, Arafat Jaradat, aged 30, on 23 February, while in the custody of Israel, the occupying Power, following his arrest last week and forced interrogations by Israeli prison authorities at the "Megiddo" jail. Israeli officials claim that Jaradat had been suffering from injuries after being hit by a rubber bullet and a tear gas canister during protests that had taken place on the day of his arrest (18 February) and claim that he died of a heart attack. However, these claims are being disputed, given that an autopsy that was conducted, with the participation of Palestinian and Israeli experts, of Jaradat's body revealed that he had been subjected to severe beatings, abuse and medical negligence during his captivity, possibly amounting to torture, resulting in at least six broken bones in his neck, spine, arms and legs, in addition to other injuries. Moreover, a lawyer who had last seen Jaradat alive during a hearing held on Thursday, 21 February, said that Jaradat had looked frail and sick as he sat in the courtroom and had told the lawyer that he was suffering great pain owing to

13-24336 (E) 280213

Please recycle

beatings and being hanged for many long hours while being interrogated and that he feared the continuation of such violent interrogation.

This horrific incident is further proof of the inhumane treatment systematically meted out by Israel to Palestinians in its jails and detention centres over the decades of this nearly 46-year military occupation and the sheer disregard for Palestinian life pervasive among the Israeli occupying forces. We call for an impartial international investigation into his death. The international community, including the Security Council, must act to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to fully abide by international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in all its actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including with regard to its imprisonment and detention of Palestinian civilians and their treatment while in Israeli captivity. Furthermore, we underscore the high priority accorded to and grave concerns of Palestinian society and the Palestinian leadership for the prisoner issue and reiterate our calls for justice and the upholding of human rights for all Palestinian prisoners, including our demands for international monitoring of their conditions, including hunger strikers, among them Samer Issawi, Ayman Sharawna, Jaafar Ezzedine and Tareq Qedan, and our calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

In this regard, it is clear that the tragic death of Jaradat, a father of two young children under the age of 3, has further stoked already high sensitivities, tensions and anger among the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Protests continue to be held in Palestinian cities, towns and villages in protest at Jaradat's killing, as well as in continuing solidarity with long-term hunger-striking prisoners and all Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, the occupying Power.

On Sunday, 24 February, more than 4,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails launched a hunger strike in protest at Arafat Jaradat's death. Moreover, hundreds upon hundreds of Palestinians have been holding demonstrations throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip following his death, particularly in the area of Al-Khalil near Jaradat's village of Sair, where he was buried today, and in Beit Ummar and Al-Arroub refugee camp. The Israeli occupying forces continue to use excessive force against these non-violent protests and demonstrations, injuring dozens of Palestinians, including two who were injured by live fire on Sunday, including a 13-year-old boy.

We thus once again appeal to the international community to give immediate attention to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's ongoing violations and crimes against the Palestinian people, including against Palestinian prisoners. The persistence of these violations is severely raising tensions and threatens to further destabilize the already fragile situation on the ground with far-reaching consequences. International law and relevant United Nations resolutions must be upheld and Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for its violations. The human rights of the Palestinian people must be ensured and respected even while living under foreign occupation. All this is imperative for calm to be preserved and for the prospects that remain for peace to be salvaged.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 455 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September

2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 February 2013 (A/ES-10/582-S/2013/109) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

United Nations A/ES-10/584–S/2013/128

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2013

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 4 March 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine, regrettably continues to deteriorate owing to the oppressive, violent practices that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to inflict on the Palestinian people in violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

Reflecting mounting despair, hundreds of Palestinians have continued to partake in demonstrations against the Israeli occupation, particularly against the abuse of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including the recent torture and killing of a Palestinian detainee, Arafat Jaradat, and in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners, as well as against Israel's settlement, wall and colonization of Palestinian land. Israel's violent suppression of these non-violent civilian protests is causing extensive casualties and further destabilizing the situation.

On Friday, 1 March, numerous demonstrations were held, including in Ramallah, Bethlehem and surrounding villages, Al-Khalil, the village of Bil'in, the village of Nabi Saleh, Anata, Salfit, Abu Dis, Al-Ram, Nablus and at the Qalandiya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Two protesters were critically wounded after being hit by live ammunition: Mahmoud Odeh, aged 20, was shot in the head by Israeli occupying forces at the Qalandiya checkpoint, and Jihad al-Qadi, a Palestinian journalist, was shot in the abdomen while covering demonstrations outside Ofer prison, near Ramallah. At least 15 Palestinian protesters were injured by rubber-coated bullets while more than 40 other people suffered from tear gas inhalation and others were hit by high-velocity gas canisters and stun grenades in the various demonstrations.

13-24876 (E) 050313

Please recycle

Friday's protests were preceded by other demonstrations throughout the week that were also met with excessive Israeli force. This included a protest on 25 February in which two Palestinian boys, aged 13 and 16, from the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem, were critically wounded by live ammunition, and protests on 28 February, at the Atara checkpoint near Ramallah, the Huwwara checkpoint near Nablus and outside Ofer prison, resulting in several injuries. In this regard, it must be stated that reports have revealed that Israeli occupying forces used a young Palestinian boy as a human shield when they confronted protesters near Ofer prison on 17 February.

In addition to the systematic violence by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population, attacks by Israeli settlers also continue. Among recent incidents, on 25 February, a Palestinian woman in East Jerusalem was attacked by a mob of extremists, in an incident fully documented by witnesses, and on 28 February, Israeli settlers launched yet another raid, attacking a group of Palestinian students in the village of Burin.

At the same time, we recall the continuing plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails. While two of the Palestinian men on long-term hunger strikes, Tareq Qedan and Jafaar Ezzedine, have ended their hunger strikes following decisions that their detention would not be extended, Samer Issawi and Ayman Sharawnah continue their hunger strikes in protest of their unlawful detention without charge. Both men were transferred to hospital on 27 February owing to their deteriorating health. The health of another Palestinian detainee, Muhammad al-Taj, whose hunger strike has exceeded 70 days, is also in critical condition. We reiterate our call for international attention to be paid to the plight of Palestinians in Israeli captivity and demand respect for their human rights and their release.

The number of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel regrettably continues to grow as the occupying Power has persisted with its arrest campaign, including of children and civilians partaking in protests against the occupation. On one day, 27 February, at least 17 Palestinians were arrested in the cities of Al-Khalil, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus and Tulkarem. On 1 March, several Palestinian leaders belonging to the Fatah faction were arrested and interrogated in East Jerusalem. On 28 February, a Palestinian boy under the age of 18 was sentenced to 19 months in prison for alleged stone-throwing in Al-Khalil. Reports confirm that during the month of February alone Israel arrested at least 382 Palestinians, including 10 women.

All these illegal Israeli practices are exacerbating tensions and casting grave doubts on Israel's claims of commitment to achieving a peace that brings an end to this grotesque military occupation and ensures justice and freedom for the Palestinian people and peace and security between Palestine and Israel. While Israel continues to act in total contradiction to these goals, the international community's responsibilities are clear. Serious efforts are required, foremost by the Security Council, to uphold the law and to hold Israel accountable for its violations. The immediate aim must be to diffuse the current volatile situation and to foster a proper environment for advancing, this year, the achievement of the two-State solution, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet's road map, before the viability of that solution is completely destroyed by the occupying Power.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 456 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000

(A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 February 2013 (A/ES-10/583-S/2013/111) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.